Air pollution

3863. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* NEEM AFZAL:
SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution caused by motor vehicles has reached alarming levels;

(b) whether carcinogenic gases such as beazopyreae are also present in unacceptable levels due to auto pollution;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take/ has taken to contain the unacceptable high levels of air pollution in Calcutta and other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Vehicular exhausts constitute one of the major sources of air pollution in areas having high traffic density. It is estimated that in metropolitan cities, the contribution of vehicular exhausts to the air pollution levels range from 65 to 70 per cent.

(b) and (c) According to the air quality survey carried out by the National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEEI) Nagpur the levels of Benzopyrene in a few cities have been found to be higher than the acceptable level of 10.0 nanograms per cubic meter.

(d) Steps taken to control air pollution in cities include the following:

(i) Emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection), Act, 1986.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis. Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent and emission standards on a time-bound basis.

(vi) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up.

(vii) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas as also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and physphogypsum.

(viii) A notification making environmental statement mandatory has been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per this notification all polluting units seeking consent are required to submit an environmental statement to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

(ix) A scheme on adoption of clean technologies to the Small Scale Industries has been prepared.

(x) Gross and mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(xi) Steps have been initiated to introduce Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in major cities, this will reduce the increasing trend of nitrogen dioxide in the cities.

(xii) A programme of running battery powered buses has been taken up in some cities to minimise vehicular pollution in congested areas of traffic.

Pollution of Yamuna

3864. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any concrete plan for cleaning the highly polluted Yamuna as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 12th August, 1993:

(b) whether any project report in this regard has been prepared by a team of Experts; if so, the recommendation thereof:

(c) whether any suggestion in this regard received from this Overseas Economic Co-operative fund, Japan, if so, with what proposal indicating the cost involved; and

(d) what action Government of India have taken/likely to take in the lights of suggestion made by various national international organisation like EPA (Environmental Protection of the U. S.) and Lemna Corporation etc. with regard to cleaning of the Yamuna River?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna, called the Yamuna Action Plan has been approved by the Government.

(b) The feasibility report referred to in the question has been prepared by the Delhi Development Authority under the title "Planning of River Yamuna Bed". This report, inter-alia, covers the following:

(i) Pollution control of river through environmental improvement and treatment of sewage.

(ii) Channelisation of river.

(iii) Reclamation of land on the river bed for development activities.

(iv) Navigation facilities across the river.

Of these, the pollution control aspects are covered under the Yamuna Action Plan.

(c) The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund of Japan is providing only financial assistance and has approved a soft loan of Yen 17.77 Billion (equivalent to Rs. 401 crore) for part financing the Yamuna Action Plan.

(d) No suggestion from the Environmental Protection Agency of USA or Lemna Corporation bas been received by the Government in this regard.

Cleaning of the Dal Lake

3865. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the J&K Government have taken some fresh steps to clean up the Dal Lake; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The measures taken by the J&K Government for cleaning up of Dal Lake include the following:

(i) Soil conservation measures in the lake catchment area.

(ii) Low cost sanitation along peripheral areas.

(iii) Selective deweeding.

(iv) Sewerage and drainage construction work in Habak and Hazaratbal areas.

(v) Improvement of Nallah Amir Khan.

(vi) Development of plots for rehabilitation of dislocated families.

(vii) Construction of foreshore roads.

(viii) Replanning and sewage disposal from houseboats.

(ix) Shifting of leper asylum from Bahra Ara and its rehabilitation at Khonmoh.

(x) Construction of settling basin on Telbal Nallah.

(xi) Setting up of a laboratory for water quality monitoring.

(xii) Improvements of navigational routes.

In addition to the above measures the State Government has recently prepared a scheme for diversion of sewage entering the lake by laying down sewers along the lake periphery.

Centre's Plan to clean up Rivers

3866. DR. RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to clean up 17 rivers of the country as reported in the Sunday Dated 6th June, 1993 under caption "Centre Plan to clean up Rivers".

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A programme for pollution abatment of 14 grossly polluted stretches in 9 rivers and 14 less polluted stretches in another 8 rivers of the country is under consideration of the Government. The details in this are being worked out.

Facilities to Tribal People in Forest Areas

3867. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities Government have provided to the tribal people residing in forests areas;

(b) whether there is any plan/scheme to give forest contract to the tribal people; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?